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Office of University
Communications

June 26, 2018

University Recognized for Student-Centered Approach, Engaging Programs

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C.—Gardner-Webb University has been recognized by a national organization that rates colleges on high-impact educational practices and student engagement. For its dynamic out-of-classroom learning and study abroad programs, GWU has earned the title of College of Distinction.

The honor also acknowledges the University's commitment to such core competencies as critical thinking, writing, oral skills, research, and global perspectives, said Tyson Schritter, chief operating officer for Colleges of Distinction. "Our process is objective, in-depth, and qualitative; however, we also take into account such quantitative data as class-size statistics, faculty-to-student ratio, plus retention and four-year graduation rates," Schritter added.

Dr. Ben Leslie, GWU provost and executive vice president, said the achievement further recognizes the enthusiastic dedication of the University's faculty. "Creating and implementing a set of student-centered programs that include opportunities like service learning, first-year programs, undergraduate research, global learning and capstone courses are simply an extension of our fundamental commitment to student success," he affirmed. "At Gardner-Webb, we have a faculty that is committed first and foremost to a student-centered college experience that empowers our students for leadership and success in whatever their chosen profession."

Students can participate in a variety of experiences for academic and personal growth. The possibilities include studying in Costa Rica, Italy or Sweden, volunteering in local schools, conducting original research with a faculty mentor or participating in mission trips in America or another country.

Luke Powell in Berlin

"In many ways, the student-centered approach is the way the Christ-centered model of higher education finds expression at Gardner-Webb," Leslie observed. "We empower students for service on a foundation of Christian faith and prepare them for lives of significance as Christian leaders in whatever vocation they find themselves."

For more information about the award, visit CollegesofDistinction.com.

Located in the North Carolina foothills, Gardner-Webb University is a private, Christian, liberal arts university that prepares students to become critical thinkers, effective leaders and compassionate servants in the global community. Emphasizing a strong student-centered experience and rigorous academics, Gardner-Webb is a place where Christian conviction meets intellectual freedom. Ignite your future at Gardner-Webb.edu.